

# Holiday Shopping, Parking Lot and ATM's Safety Tips!

- ❖ Shopping, parking lots and ATM's can present unique dangers to our Soldiers, DA Civilians and families especially during the holiday period. Taking extra precautions along with a few preventive measures can help keep your holiday season joyous. Anyone can become vulnerable to theft and other holiday crimes unless they are careful and vigilant. By following these safety tips, you will find yourself more prepared and aware of the dangers during the holiday season.



# Shopping Safety

- ❖ Dress casually and comfortably. Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- ❖ Do not carry a purse or wallet, if possible. Keep cash in your front pocket.
- ❖ Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member and park in a well-lighted area.
- ❖ Always carry your Driver License or Identification Card along with necessary cash, checks and/or a credit card you expect to use.
- ❖ Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible.
- ❖ Ensure to check statements, receipts and notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is misused, lost, or stolen.
- ❖ Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers and cancelation phone numbers in a safe place at home.



# Parking Lot Safety

- ❖ Be extra careful if you do carry a wallet or purse. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded parking areas, transportation terminals, and public transit.
- ❖ Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.
- ❖ Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, "con-artists" may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.
- ❖ Keep all car doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car.
- ❖ Set your alarm or use an anti-theft device when parked.
- ❖ Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows.
- ❖ Park as close as you can to your destination and take notice of where you parked.
- ❖ Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside.



# ATM SAFETY

- ❖ To protect yourself, handle your bank card with the same prudence you would cash or credit cards and keep it in a safe place.
- ❖ Memorize your PIN code so you won't have to write it on your card or a piece of paper, and carry it in your purse or wallet.
- ❖ And keep your PIN to yourself -- if others are nearby waiting to use the ATM, don't let them see which buttons you press.
- ❖ Choose a bank with an ATM located in a highly visible, well-lighted area. If you must withdraw money from an ATM after dark, have someone accompany you. Also, try not to make large cash withdrawals.



Happy Holidays from the  
8<sup>th</sup> Theater Sustainment Command & Safety Office